

Charlie shows up around 7:30 a.m. and spends several hours scanning newspapers, journals and magazines. Then he doodles with the vast array of ideas the %\$#@! muse has dumped into his lap, cranks out three or four potential cartoons for the next day, decides on one, colors it and saunters out the front door, carefree as a hoppy toad.

I, on the other hand, am lucky to wake up in time to grab lunch, pour a cup of coffee, exchange office gossip with colleagues, compare fishing stories over the phone with friends, e-mail the latest bawdy jokes I've heard to everyone in my address book, drink more coffee, loudly curse the moron who didn't rebrew coffee, check my parlay sheets, drink even more coffee—and then type myself into a furious, sweaty, nail-biting panic till deadline, milking the lone thread of creativity I stole from someone else until it is toast-dry. Is this fair?

OK, so here's the serious truth: Charlie Daniel is blessed with the quickest wit this side of Hollywood. Plus the ability to take that humor, reduce it to a drawing and zing his point home in a panel the size of a Kleenex.

Try it sometime. After you've spent a week in frustration, you might understand how difficult the task is day after day, year after year.

Yet he dismisses the silly notion that he's ever had a real job.

"I'm doing what I did in the second grade," he says. "I've never gone high-tech. I still draw with a pen and paper, not on a computer screen."

Perhaps. But you don't stay on top of this game without a keen eye for news and a comedian's sense of timing.

"Some of my earlier work was overdone," he said. "I've learned to know when to quit a drawing. Just make your point and stop."

"Also, editorial cartoons have a short life span. Next week, somebody might look at it and say, 'What the heck was that all about?' At the same time, you can't be too quick with an idea or else you'll be ahead of the public."

An excellent example occurred recently when NASA announced it was sending plumbing materials to the International Space Station to fix a broken toilet. The next morning, Charlie's cartoon showed a giant plunger blasting off. When confused readers began calling, he realized he'd struck too soon.

"I probably should have given that one a day or two more," he said. "But you're always juggling with the fact that bloggers and late-night TV folks are already using the same material."

Let me tell you a few things I've learned about "Cholly" after working with him over most of 40 years:

The same fellow who has rubbed shoulders with presidents and barons of commerce is one of the most laid-back, down-to-earth, genuine nice guys you'll ever meet.

He can, and often does, make a serious point without having to dip his pen into poison ink.

He is a five-time nominee for journalism's highest award, the Pulitzer Prize.

He is soft-spoken, leads a quiet life of humble service to society's lost and downtrodden, and is quick to laugh at himself.

He takes immense delight in sharing with me visceral hate mail from the occasional reader who either misunderstood a cartoon or was its most-deserved target. Or, as one nutty reviewer ranted in misplaced criticism of country music legend Charlie Daniels (with an "s"), "I hate your music, too!"

I was sitting in the audience in 2005 for a humor-in-politics seminar hosted by the Howard Baker Center at the University of Tennessee. The panel featured some of the

nation's most noted political wits, including the late syndicated columnist Art Buchwald.

Ask anyone who saw this performance: The others were funny, but Charlie brought the house down with self-deprecating lines, one after another.

That same shy attitude is reflected when he talks about the impact of his editorial cartoons:

"I'd be happy hitting .350."

Trust me, his batting average is exceedingly higher. Ol' Ignatius Daniel has made journalism's All-Star roster 50 years straight—and counting.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of overriding the President's veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act.

For the past several weeks, Congress has debated an issue that should not be considered controversial—health care for our Nation's seniors. This important piece of legislation addresses impeding cuts to physicians' Medicare payment rates. The issue not only affects seniors in my district of El Paso, Texas, but also hurts access to health care for all El Pasoans.

The most important issue to consider when discussing this bill is that the provisions not only stop the impending 10.6 percent cut, but it ensures that seniors and people with disabilities can continue to see the doctors of their choice.

It is also critical to understand that a cut to Medicare will have a significant impact on similar programs. For instance, these cuts would not only affect those covered by Medicare, but it would also threaten access to health care for military members and their families under the military health program, TRICARE. Physicians serving our troops also face the 10.6 percent cut due because TRICARE payments are directly tied to Medicare.

Also, private insurance companies look to Medicare to base their physician reimbursement rates. Physicians in El Paso and across the Nation rely on reimbursement by Medicare and other health care insurance groups to cover health care services rendered when a patient does not pay the full cost of care. In a recent survey of Texas physicians, more than 60 percent stated they would be forced to stop seeing Medicare patients should their reimbursement rates be cut.

H.R. 6331 is significant legislation that eliminates the cuts to Medicare payments for the remainder of 2008 and provides a 1.1 percent increase for 2009. The bill also extends and improves low-income assistance programs for Medicare beneficiaries. Finally, the bill protects seniors' access to therapy services.

I am extremely disappointed at President Bush's obvious disregard for Congress and the people they represent by vetoing this critical legislative proposal. By doing so, the President has sent a clear message to seniors

that he does not believe providing them with access to quality health care is a priority of his administration.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of overriding the veto and by doing so, support Medicare beneficiaries' ability to choose their physicians.

RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, today I will vote to refer House Resolution 1345 to the Judiciary Committee. My vote does not reflect a belief that this Resolution deserves continued consideration in the House of Representatives, instead it was a vote cast to preclude consideration of the Resolution on the floor of the House.

As you know, the Constitution provides for "impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Whether we agree or disagree with this President, most Americans—including myself—do not feel this high threshold has been met. Furthermore, as the lone representative for North Dakota in the United States House of Representatives, I take the responsibility of representing the beliefs and values of my State seriously, and I believe I am reflecting prevailing view among the majority of North Dakotans on this issue.

Again, I do not believe that the House of Representatives should be considering the highly partisan issue of impeachment at this time. Bringing up this Resolution on the floor of the House would not only waste valuable floor time, but would also distract from far more pressing national issues and undermine the bipartisan cooperation that is necessary to pass effective and timely legislation.

CARIB NEWS EDITORIALS SPEAK OF PROGRESS IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD two editorials from the June 24, 2008, publication of *CaribNews*.

The first editorial is entitled "Caribbean Heritage: Building on Its Foundations In a Foreign Land." The piece reminds us of the distance that those of Caribbean heritage have traveled both physically and figuratively. "Confidence in their inner strength has helped people from the Caribbean to win their independence from an imperialistic stranglehold, fight alongside their long-standing African-American allies, in the battle for respect for people's human rights, and succeed in opening up new vistas for the generations that come after them." Caribbean Americans have come a long way from being strangers in a foreign land to gaining recognition for their contributions to American culture.

The second editorial is entitled "Wanted: A Productive Caribbean Community Conference." This piece speaks of the importance of the CARICOM Conference but also how important it is that the leaders of CARICOM take the lead on the next steps necessary for the Conference to have tangible results. To make sure that follow-up is taken care of, it has been suggested that CARICOM "consider establishing a permanent diplomatic outpost whose responsibility would be to ensure that regional initiatives . . . are not simply talked about but are launched." The editorial echoes the voice of many in the opinion that the CARICOM leaders have done badly in the past with follow-up. It is now up to them to make sure that the benefits of the conference are realized.

[From the CaribNews, June 24, 2008]

WANTED: A PRODUCTIVE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

"The Diaspora is essential to our success." Dr. Denzil Douglas was referring to the hundreds of thousands, some say million-plus immigrants from the English, French, Dutch and Spanish-speaking countries that comprise the Caribbean archipelago.

Actually, he was zeroing in on a major reason why most of Caricom's Prime Ministers and Presidents are heading to New York City this week for a dialogue with nationals of their countries who have made the north-eastern region of the United States their home.

For in organizing the first-ever summit of Caribbean leaders in New York City, the planners put meetings with the Diaspora high on the agenda. That made a lot of sense. Caribbean-New Yorkers, indeed West Indian-Americans, as they sometimes refer to themselves, are part of the vertebral column, a segment of the region's economic and social backbone.

It would be outside the realm of common sense for a two day conference of the kind being arranged to occur without a meaningful dialogue between the leaders and the Antiguan, Belizeans, Bahamians, Barbados, Grenadians, Dominicans, Guyanese, Haitians, Jamaicans, Vincentians, Kittians, St. Lucians, Trinidadians, you name them.

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and easily one of the most influential members on Capitol Hill summed up the situation well when he told this newspaper "we see this as an opportunity for the leaders of these sovereign nations of the Caribbean to meet with their nationals and have an important dialogue."

But exchanging views is one thing, acting on the ideas is another. Far too often Caribbean leaders come to the City, visit Miami, Toronto, Boston, Hartford and other places with large Caribbean immigrant populations, have meetings, promise a lot but deliver on precious little.

The real problem is a lack of an effective follow up and that's a commitment which the heads of government can make and solve. Caricom itself should consider establishing, a permanent diplomatic outpost whose responsibility would be to ensure that regional initiatives designed to forge stronger links with the Diaspora are not simply talked about but are launched.

Granted, Caribbean countries have their own missions and Consulates-General in Washington and New York to get things done but that's at the individual nation level.

Yes, we know that the money supply is tight and that at a time of escalating energy and food prices the countries have other priorities. But for a region which receives bil-

lions annually from its overseas nationals, a slender operation with well defined set of goals can't break the bank.

But the Diaspora isn't the only major objective of the summit that begins on Thursday and ends the following day. Investment and trade are crucial to Caricom's future prosperity and any concerted effort to help open the doors to such investment would be useful. The leaders are going to Wall Street. Goldman Sachs, one of the world's leading investment banks and the New York Stock Exchange, another financial services industry leader, are to host the heads of state or government at closed door meetings. In addition, Ambassador Susan Schwab, U.S. Special Trade Representative is coming to New York to sit down to talk trade and explore opportunities to increase the flow of goods from the region to the United States and the other way around.

Now that the legislation which extends the life of the Caribbean Basin Initiative has survived the threat of a veto by President George Bush, Ambassador Schwab should be in a position to tell the leaders how they can link arms so their countries can export more to the U.S.

Congressman Rangel, who brokered both the Wall Street sessions and the talks with Schwab, was careful to limit his expectations to the goals of the Caribbean. That's wise.

"I would hope that the Caricom leaders get what they wish out of the meeting with Ambassador Schwab," was the way he articulated it.

It wasn't simply a matter of being diplomatic but his approach was essentially correct because in the end it's up to the executive branch of the U.S. government and to the Caribbean states to agree on the architecture of trade.

Education and the relationship between tertiary level institutions in the Caribbean and the United States are another vital item on the agenda. The universities and colleges in the Caribbean and the U.S. can benefit from closer collaboration. The City University of New York, the University of the West Indies, the University of Guyana and the University of Suriname come quickly to mind as example of schools that can and must fashion stronger ties.

York College in Queens and Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn are making a substantial contribution to the educational development of the Caribbean immigrant community. Their leadership, Dr. Marcia Keiz at York and Dr. Edison Jackson at Medgar Evers, are well attuned to the needs of the communities they serve, including Caribbean students. It would be wise to open up new lines of cooperation and communication with the universities in the Caribbean so that there would be an exchange of faculty and students and the launching of innovative programs that can help all partners, not just the Caribbean.

[From the CaribNews, June 24, 2008]
CARIBBEAN HERITAGE: BUILDING ON ITS
FOUNDATIONS IN A FOREIGN LAND

As one of the Caribbean's literary giants, George Lamming is well-placed to articulate his awareness of the role of the artist and the creative imagination of people from the West Indies.

"The central and seminal value of the creative imagination is that it functions as a civilizing and a humanizing force in a process of struggle," was the way he put it quite eloquently and succinctly.

As he explained it, artistic expression, whether a work of art, a play in the theater, a piece of pulsating music, a poem or a novel, not to mention dance "offers an expe-

rience through which feeling is educated. Through which feeling is deepened. Through which feeling can increase capacity to accommodate a great variety of knowledge."

Many of these manifestations of "feeling" are being thrust onto center-stage in New York City and indeed across the United States in June as the celebrations marking Caribbean Heritage Month allow immigrants from the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking nations, coastal states and territories that comprise the archipelago to present their cultural background and its underpinnings in a fashion that warms the cockles of one's heart, especially those of the anthropologists and the sociologists in our midst.

An area of conquest, colonial domination, imperialism and in the past 40-plus years, a region which manifestly asserts self-determination, independence and nationalism, the Caribbean has come to be recognized as an important sub-region of the world's developing countries that belong to a host of international institutions, ranging from the United Nations, UNESCO, and Organization of American States to UNICEF, the Group of 77 developing countries, now led by Antigua & Barbuda to the International Cricket Council, and the global Olympic movement, to name a few.

Its heritage provides a set of building blocks that aided the transformation of a collection of colonial possessions into a vibrant civilization with an interesting past and a bright future. It's a heritage whose components are not only cultural expressions, in the sense of the artistic but are firmly grounded in religion, governance, respect for law and order and a firm belief that the governed must select its governors and governments. Just as important, the society must extend a helping hand to the less fortunate by creating opportunities for those at the bottom of the economic and social ladder.

This rich heritage as reflected in literature, music, dance, diverse languages and a range of religious experience, not to mention traditions that have given birth to vital regional state and local institutions that help to fashion our behavior and the orderly way of everyday life, can't be ignored or downplayed.

Wherever Caribbean immigrants go, whether in Britain, North American, Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia or the Middle East, their music, literature, indeed, their entire way of life is transplanted into the soil they describe as home-away-from home.

It was that pride and belief in themselves and what Norman Manley, a builder of modern day Jamaica whose influence extended up-and-down-and-around the Caribbean, called "their own destiny."

That confidence in their inner strength has helped people from the Caribbean to win their independence from an imperialistic stranglehold, fight alongside their long-standing African-American allies in the battle for respect for people's human rights; and succeed in opening up new vistas for the generations that come after them.

Such qualities plus the friendship, support and respect of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate led the recent decision of the Congress to designate June as Caribbean Heritage Month. And when at first President George Bush hesitated to sign the legislation into law, the machinery of persuasion switched into high gear and he eventually felt it necessary to affix his signature to it and declare it an important step forward for the United States and the peoples of the Caribbean.

As West Indians think of their heritage, inevitably their thoughts go back to those early trail blazers who fought alongside the

revolutionaries to throw off the colonial chains in the 18th century. Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the American war of independence against England was said to be from the Caribbean. Their thoughts also dart to Prince Hall, the Caribbean immigrant who devised a plan for the education of Blacks in Massachusetts and who fought to end slavery in the United States, the Caribbean and indeed the rest of the world.

Frederick Douglass, the 19th century golden trombone of the abolition movement that helped to erase the bloody stain of immorality spawned by slavery in the Americas in general and the United States in particular, once paid tribute to the role of West Indians in that epic struggle.

Zeroing in on Emancipation Day in the West Indies in the first half of the 19th century, he described it as "the first bright star in a stormy sky—the first smile after a long providential frown—the first ray of hope—the first tangible fact demonstrating the possibility of a peaceful transition from slavery to freedom, of the Negro race."

Few, if any one, could say it better.

Whoever else, he went on, may either seek to forget or slight the claim of that historic day, "it can never be said of us other than memorable and glorious."

Almost a 100 years later Marcus Garvey and others took up the torch to illuminate the path to political and economic self-determination and much later still, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm and a host of others served as standard bearers for those principles of equality for Blacks with the rest of humanity.

The vibrant Caribbean communities across the land have every reason to be proud of their heritage and shouldn't forget those who helped them along the way to turn the dream of a Caribbean Heritage Month into reality.

Their Black brothers and sisters on Capitol Hill and their supporters of every color and ethnic background in and out of the House of Representatives and the Senate must be hailed and recognized for what they have done in bringing about the official recognition and the celebrations that showcase that heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to Georgia's primary elections, I was absent from the House of Monday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 15, and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner: H. Res. 1067—"Yes"; H. Res. 1080—"Yes"; H. Con. Res. 297—"Yes"; H. Res. 1259—"Yes"; H. Res. 1323—"Yes"; Passage, Objections of the President Notwithstanding, of H.R. 6331—"Yes"; Motion To Refer Kucinich Privileged Resolution—Yes; H.R. 5803—"Yes"; and H. Res. 1090—"Yes."

THE CARIBBEAN SOLUTION FOR AIRLINE CHALLENGES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts being made by the

Caribbean Tourism Organization, CTO, and the Caribbean Hotel Association, CHA, to increase Caribbean revenue through the tourism sector.

Increasing airline cutbacks have posed a great challenge to many nations; however the Caribbean has seen an opportunity through this challenge. Through the CTO and CHA, Caribbean nations have decided to pool their resources. Many Caribbean destinations are reached with a connection in Puerto Rico, hence an increase in flights to Puerto Rico would mean increased access to the Caribbean.

I would like to recognize all who are involved in this transition for heightened cooperation and coordination within the Caribbean community. These efforts not only contribute to the unification of the Caribbean, but will build up the economies of the region as a whole.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

AIRLINE CHALLENGES LEAD TO WHAT COULD BECOME UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION AMONG CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS

The current economic difficulties facing the airline industry worldwide have provided numerous challenges to the destinations they serve, but have led to at least one positive in the Caribbean region: what could become an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among Caribbean governments. The airline challenges have caused many to recognize that they can deliver far more benefits to their citizens by cooperating with other governments than by acting alone.

This coordination level accelerated recently when the Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) had the foresight to call an emergency meeting in Antigua for Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Tourism, Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Aviation, and members of the tourism private sector to find ways to minimize the impact on their economies brought on by rapid increases in airline fuel prices. It soon became clear to every participant at that meeting that by cooperating on the establishment of hubs, on the promotion of the region, on providing revenue guarantees to airlines and on coordinating the establishment of more efficient intra-regional carriers, all Caribbean countries would suffer less than if each country attempted to address the crisis on its own.

The case of Caribbean hubs, and in particular the case of the Puerto Rico hub, was most instructive. The Government of Puerto Rico has come to recognize that by increasing the number of flights and seats connecting through Puerto Rico, they increase the number of flights, seats and flexibility of passengers traveling to Puerto Rico. This point was made most forcefully in a recent meeting in San Juan and many of the governments to the south of San Juan are relying heavily on decisions being made in Puerto Rico for their continued survival.

All governments also understand that with the current structure of the airline industry, it is indispensably necessary to ensure that the flights coming into Puerto Rico can connect easily to the onward carriers such that travelers traveling beyond the hub can connect online or through their travel agent seamlessly. Without those connections many of the southern destinations are invisible in electronic booking systems. It is this interdependence that is forcing discussions between governments at an unprecedented level and at an unprecedented rate.

The same level of cooperation is beginning in the areas of marketing and in providing airline guarantees. In the past few years, an increasing proportion of the funds voted to departments of tourism across the world are being forced into escrow to cover airline guarantees. That leaves far less available for the promotion. This situation has compelled Caribbean governments to aggregate their promotional budgets for greater promotional efficiency and to devise financial arrangements that reduce the cost of these arrangements which also serve to minimize the risk.

"There is a silver lining on every cloud," according to Allen Chastanet, Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). "We believe that this high level of cooperation is being driven by the Governments, the private sector and the people of each territory recognizing that we in the Caribbean are more interdependent than independent," he emphasized. "Governments now realize that if they do not cooperate to maximize benefits or minimize risk to their countries, they will be called to account by their people asking why they refused to cooperate."

Peter Odle, the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) also commented on this suddenly elevated level of cooperation. Odle noted that, "Even though the cooperation between CTO and CHA has grown over the past several years, I see increased cooperation on this issue even at the destination level where members of the private sector are ensuring that their governments are engaged in these cooperative ventures. I promise you, the private sector gets it. We will achieve much more in addressing this crisis through intra-regional cooperation than we can ever achieve by going alone. I will tell you that those governments that do not cooperate will be seen as pariahs by both their own people as well as by other governments in the region."

At the meeting in Antigua, four task forces were established, headed by Ministers to examine the four critical issues. These committees will report to the CTO and CHA Board meetings which will be held prior to the inaugural Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit (ACTS) in Washington, D.C. The results of these committees will also be presented to the Caricom Heads at their meeting in Antigua on July 2nd.

Governments have also come to recognize that they need to cooperate in speaking together with one voice to the government of the United States on a number of critical issues and they propose to take advantage of their presence in Washington to begin those discussions. Thus it appears that this unprecedented spirit of cooperation will continue even beyond the current situation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TIMOTHY L. MOORE FOR HIS 24 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Timothy L. Moore spent 24 years in dedicated service to the United States Air Force Security Forces; and

Whereas, Mr. Moore has received high honors such as the Air Force Security Forces Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2005 and the Inspector General Outstanding Performer Award in 2003; and